

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Did anyone have less than a great time at the Huntsville Hamfest? Each year seems better than the last. Charlie hasn't announced attendance figures yet but it seemed the Sunday crowd was significantly larger than last year.

As this is written, we're keeping our fingers crossed for good weather for this weekend's NADXC picnic – Saturday, September 10, 10 AM to whenever, at Monte Sano State Park pavilion.

In other news, I'd like to enlist your support for Greg W4OZK's campaign for re-election as the ARRL Southeastern Division Director. During my tenure as the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club president our area suffered through the devastating tornados of April 2011. In his Director position Greg was instrumental in quickly marshalling ARRL resources to help the entire state. Under his direction Madison County received and used the go-kits provided by the League in dispatching hams to accompany damage assessment teams and clean-up crews. For this and many other notable accomplishments, Greg deserves our vote for re-election.

The club has received an email from Bob Alphin K4UEE requesting funding for the Bou-

vet Island (#2 most-wanted) DXpedition scheduled for late 2017 or early 2018. Bob, Ralph KOIR, and Erling LA6VM have been working on this project since returning from Peter I (3Y0X) some 10 years ago. While this seems a long way off, I encourage us to debate and approve early funding for a proven team to a highly sought-after entity.

I've been asked to inquire if any club members use an Apache Labs 100D or 200D with diversity receive. If so please respond by email for some follow-up questions.

With all the work around Hamfest and home projects there hasn't been much time for radio but did carve out some time to make 278 Q's in my home state's Tennessee QSO Party last Sunday. My soapbox comments: Thank goodness for out of state participation because we sure struggled to make in-state Q's. While taking a phone call I put the radio on 15m and set the keyer to CQ and was answered by someone in TX. The band was open, just no one there. TS-990 and Alpha-91b, ladderline fed doublet for 80/40, A3S at 60', NE Beverage. A fun contest and a good time slot. Thanks for the Q's.

73,

Mark N4BCD

## September Program—Receiver Audio

Program by Bob DePierres, K8KI

Is the audio produced by your receiver adequate for the long-haul? Do certain artifacts become tiring after hours in the chair—on the DX side or waiting in pileups, running or search-and-pounce? Come and hear a recap of Bob's hamfest presentation. Get to the Golden Corral around 6:00 pm for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Bob's presentation.



## August Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ

Present: 22 members and 0 guests

(Correction from last month's meeting minutes: Rob Suggs' call sign is KB5EZ.)

### Announcements

The Huntsville Hamfest is less than 2 weeks away. Tom KG4CUY made some comments about the forums lined up for the weekend. Jim N4KH stated that the flea market tables had sold out. We have many members involved in the operation of the Huntsville Hamfest, and Warren KJ4RAQ and Karen should be mentioned as the hospitality chairs.

### DX worked:

Mark N4BCD – NN4SA

Tim AB4B – JA – 3 each on 6mtr

Bruce AC4G – T2COW, Tuvalu 20, 30, 17m

Chuck N4NM – CT7 (6 meters)

Tom N4KG – What's DX?

Chris KF4MMF – You have to operate to get DX. Solar # at 33. Really?

Jim N4KH – N4KS

AI W4ABW – 5WOCOW, J75KG,  
R7OASIA, AS-070, BG5BWZ, AS-  
141, YB80, OC-208, VE3LYC/  
KL7, NA-172

Tickets for the DX Club Banquet are still available. See Kelley W4VPZ after the meeting to purchase yours.

The NADXC Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m. until whenever, at the Monte Sano State Park bluff pavilion.

The Alabama Young Ham of the Year is Mark S. Roberson KM4DEF from Birmingham. The club has gotten the plaque for presentation to him at the Hamfest.

Rob KB5EZ reported that the NN4SA club station at MSFC recently had 1,010 contacts for their Apollo XV special event July 30-August 2. Several of their members were new operators on the HF bands during the event.

Chuck N4NM reported being surprised to receive his 40 year pin from ARRL this week. Bob K8KI also received his 40 year pin.

Mark N4BCD asked if anyone had received any W1AW QSL cards from the centennial stations. No one had yet.

### Treasurer's Report

Kelley W4VPZ has just deposited \$149.00 in banquet tickets sales and dues payments. The new account balance is \$5,689.33.

### Membership Applications

None.

### Old Business

Mark N4BCD asked if there had been any recent issues with the W4QB repeater. There were no complaints. The odd ID and lack of courtesy tone was noted.

### New Business

The Dayton Hamvention's move from Hara Arena was discussed by the members.

The meeting was adjourned for a program by Tim AB4B on his new 4-square, and a discussion on low-band antenna projects to consider for the upcoming HF propagation doldrums.

### NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Jim Spikes, N4KH
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

## Treasurer's Report

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ

Treasurer's Report for August 2016

Beginning Balance .....\$ 5,689.33

### Deposits

Paypal..... \$ 896.14

Paypal..... \$ 476.99

Cash/Checks ..... \$ 670.00

### Withdrawals

Door Prizes .....\$ 259.99

Embassy Suites .....\$282.24

Young Ham Plaque..... \$ 46.86

Ending Balance ..... \$ 7,143.37

### The LongPath Staff

#### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

#### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

## Southeastern Division Director Candidate Announcement

By Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

Dear Amateur Radio Operator,

I am running for the position of ARRL Southeastern Division Director for the 2016-2018 term and would appreciate your support and vote.

I served as your Director from 2007 to 2013, representing Amateur Radio and the Southeastern Division. As ARRL Director, I enjoyed meeting many fellow amateurs throughout our Division and gained valuable board experience. My work on multiple ARRL committees, travels across our Division and learning about many of your activities and concerns has helped to shape my member-driven-thinking and focus to improve, protect and serve Amateur Radio and the ARRL. I will build on this valuable experience to make me successful as a member of the ARRL Board of Directors.

My previous service as ARRL Alabama Section Manager for 4 years and my work as ARRL Southeastern Division Director for 6 years are extremely valuable to me. This combined service has given me the unique experience and opportunity to work with many of you to

achieve a variety of accomplishments in Amateur Radio. My ARRL service has been very rewarding in a number of ways. It has allowed me to promote Amateur Radio, build relationships and gain valuable experiences working with ARRL employees, emergency communications and disaster relief amateurs and served agencies, the DX and VHF/UHF communities, public service, education, contesting, hamfests, clubs, operating events, youth activities, and latest digital technologies.

As the next ARRL Southeastern Division Director, I will continue to represent the entire Southeastern Division with my proven leadership performance, integrity, experience, successful Board collaboration and credibility. In this capacity, I will continue to promote all facets of our great hobby!

**Make your vote count for a positive impact in Amateur Radio!** I am asking for your personal endorsement, support and votes from your clubs and groups. Call your friends in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and ask them to



**Vote for Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, as ARRL Southeastern Division Director!**

Together, we can again have a major positive impact for Amateur Radio! I would appreciate your support and vote in this important position. Additional information is available on my web site, [www.w4ozk.com](http://www.w4ozk.com). Your ARRL ballot should arrive in the U.S. Postal mail in early October.

73 and Thank You,  
Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

## Huntsville Hamfest 2016 Recap

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

For many of us a weekend at the Huntsville Hamfest starts sometime Friday morning and ends late Sunday afternoon. As your club officer the first order of business after getting the Hospitality credentials is to find the NADXC booth and unfurl the club banner. With that finished it's time to strategically place a few banquet flyers in the hope for some last minute ticket sales.

Next on the agenda is picking up the pre-arranged Banquet door prizes with vendors who accepted our solicitation, and to ask a few others to add to the pool. I've found this is a good time to

invite customer reps to join us at the banquet and we netted a few more, plus promises from others of their attendance next year.

At about 4 PM it's time to meet with Kelley and give the caterer a final seat count. This is essentially a roll of the dice because we go out on a limb to project a few additional sales. This year we were spot on at 82.

Friday concludes with some more informal chats and helping other HARC members move in the equipment of vendor & flea market exhibitors, then home to rest for the long day ahead.

On Saturday there's a few minutes to browse the flea market area before being in place at the NADXC booth when the doors open at 9 AM. My main task is to assist ARRL DXCC Card Checkers Steve AG4W and Mike K4ADK with logging in, logging out, and collecting the money where required from the hams bringing their coveted collection of cards. The first couple of hours are very busy with activity winding down sometime after lunch. In the few slots of spare time each of us take turns scanning some flea market tables.

Cont'd on p. 4

## Huntsville Hamfest 2016 Recap

(cont'd from p. 3)

Sometime around 4 PM I head to the banquet facility to check the room preparations and find a quiet corner to gather my thoughts for tonight's event.

I've inquired to several long-time club members how long NADXC has been doing a Banquet and the most authoritative answer was "around 1980". Simple subtraction led me to welcome folks to the 46<sup>th</sup> annual DX Banquet. You've just read it on the Internet so it must be true.

I would rate Saturday's banquet a success for the club. The food & service were as good as prior years, our speaker Craig Thompson K9CT entertained us with a very good program on Palmyra, ticket sales came a long way to covering expenses, and several attendees were happy to take home a door prize. (ed – see sidebar for door prize list and Kelley's final financial analysis sheet).

In addition to Craig, notable attendees this year included ARRL South-eastern Division Director Doug Rehman

K4AC, ARRL Alabama PIO Ed Tyler N4EDT, GigaParts Owner Robby Sperr KF4LFQ, Yaesu US Sales Manager Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV, Yaesu Sales Jerry Darby N6UME, Expert Linears Bob W5UQ & Elba KG5HIE Hardie, and from Elecraft, Eric Swartz WA6HHQ & David Shoaf KG6IRW.

For me Sunday is remarkably stress-free with the banquet out of the way and the number of hams bringing cards to be checked down significantly. Actually had time to attend a Forum program of interest, talk with a few commercial vendors, and thank the ones who supported the Banquet.

Already looking forward to Huntsville Hamfest version 2.0.17.

I want to specifically thank Kelley W4VPZ for her work in keeping the ticket sales on track, and to Kevin KG4TEI for his managing the A/V equipment (which performed flawlessly) and photos from the Banquet. Thanks also to the members who attended & supported our Club's growing annual event.

A list of door prizes and final accounting for the banquet are shown on page 6.



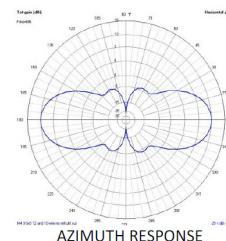
### Zeppelin Antennas

300 Industrial Park Rd  
Starkville, MS 39759  
(662) 323-5869

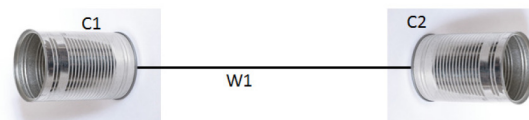
### 2 ELEMENT RECEIVE ARRAY

DESCRIPTION: Two Extremely Low Frequency acquisition units are connected via a precision phonon conduction transmission line, enabling reception of propagated energy.

OPERATION: Simply orient the RX antenna array in the direction of desired reception and tension the phonon conduction cable to 5N.



#### SCHEMATIC:



#### PARTS LIST:

RefDes	Description
C1, C2	Swanson's Broth Can
W1	Rope, Dacron, 1/4" x 13'

WARRANTY: The product was constructed at our state of the art facility and in normal use is guaranteed to be free from defects in material and workmanship for 1 year.



Bob, K8KI demonstrates the Zeppelin Antennas special banquet door prize detailed to the right. At the other end of this QSO is John, N5DF.



## DX Contests for September

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest (SSB) 80 -10M

Sept 10, 0000Z to Sept 11, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 92, Sept. QST and [www.darc.de/referate](http://www.darc.de/referate)

### Russian cup Digital Contest (DIG), 80 – 10M

Sept 10, 1500Z to Sept 11, 0959Z

Exchange: Serial # + 4-char. Grid square

See page 92, Sept QST and [www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/86.html](http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/86.html)

### Scandinavian Activity Contest, (CW), 80 – 10M

Sept. 17, 1200Z to Sept, 18 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 92, Sept. QST and

[www.sactest.net/blo/rules](http://www.sactest.net/blo/rules)

### CQ WW RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80 – 10M

Sept 24, 0000Z to Sept 25, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, State/Province, and CQ zone; DX sends RST and CQ zone

See page 92, Sept. QST and [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

### OTHERS:

#### Russian WW Digital Contest, DIG,

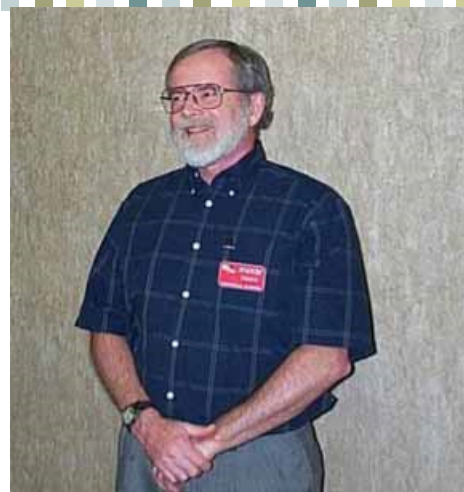
1200Z, Oct. 1 to 1159Z, Oct. 2

#### Oceania DX Contest, SSB,

0800Z, Oct. 1 to 0800Z, Oct. 2

#### Oceania DX Contest, CW,

0800Z, Oct. 8 to 0800Z, Oct. 9



### Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB,

1200Z Oct. 8 to 1200Z Oct. 9

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals. Beware.

## Thank You NADXC

117 Willow Valley Drive  
Harvest, AL 35749  
3 September 2016

Dear Mr. Brown,

I am writing you to say thank you for your support of the 2016 ARRL Alabama Outstanding Youth Ham Award. The North Alabama DX Club has been a very generous supporter of youth Amateur Radio Operators and supporting our Alabama Section award. Our award winner, Mark Roberson KM4DEF was very appreciative of the outstanding plaque that was presented to him at the 2016 Huntsville Hamfest.

On behalf of the ARRL Alabama Section, our section leadership appreciates the North Alabama DX Club's generous support. We look forward to working with you again next year.

73,

Kaitlyn Cole KS3P

ARRL Alabama Section Youth Coordinator

[ks3p@live.com](mailto:ks3p@live.com)

I echo Kaitlyn on thanking you for your support. We look forward to continuing our growth and partnership for ARRL and ARES for Alabama.

JVann Martin, W4JVM

*Section Manager*

Alabama

[w4jvm@arrrl.org](mailto:w4jvm@arrrl.org)

205.281.4728

## Hamfest Banquet Details

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

### 2016 NADXC Banquet Accounting

Income	
Direct Ticket Sales	\$ 1,064.00
Sales via PayPal	\$ 1,839.28
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,903.28</b>
Expenses	
Served meal cost	\$ (2,052.26)
Room / facility rental	\$ (226.00)
Speaker's hotel room	\$ (282.24)
Club-sponsored door prizes	
FTdx1200	\$ (200.00)
Vibroplex key	\$ (149.27)
Yamaha Headset	\$ (59.99)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (2,969.76)</b>
<b>Net (profit / loss)</b>	<b>\$ (66.48)</b>
Note: Figures reflect final estimate of dinners given to facility (81), including 4 comp'd meals for sponsors.	

### QRP Weekend

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Labor Day weekend found me in Manchester, TN at Fred Deadman Park to cheer on XYL Janet, KI4WLX in a 100 mile run/walk, which turned out to be 4xMarathon plus 3 for grins, or 108 miles. Nominally there to provide some sort of support, I commandeered a little picnic pavilion next to an accommodating tree and set up a QRP station, rationalizing that keeping out of the way of runners (who turned into zombies at night) was top priority.

Much of the time conditions were just plain pathetic, but I was able to get a few QSOs in the CWO contest and Colorado QSO party, and a few rag-chews. All this was on 40, 30, and 20m—I never heard a peep higher up, not even CO8LY on 17m, so I was quite certain that band was absolutely dead.

Being in Tennessee during the Tennessee QSO party I felt it my duty to contribute to their party as NADXC residents of Tennessee do for the Alabama QSO Party. My puny signal quickly exhausted workable stations on

### 2016 NADXC Banquet Door Prizes

	<i>DXEngineering catalogs containing a \$20 off coupon on the back cover were given to all Banquet attendees.</i>
16	Nifty E-Z Guide to Adventures in DXing by Jeff Cantor K1ZN (1)
15	Nifty E-Z Guide to Adventures in DXing by Jeff Cantor K1ZN (2)
14	From The WireMan: Coax, 50' of RG-8 & book Wirebook V by Press Jones
13	\$25 Gift certificate from Ham Radio Outlet
12	LED Desk Sign from Gifts4Hams.com
11	\$700 Coupon from Expert Linears
10	\$50 Gift certificate from R & L Electronics
9	\$50 Gift certificate from MFJ
8	(gag gift) Low Band RX Array from Zeppelin Antennas—picture on p. 4
7	DXEngineering, Folding Chair with Storage Bag
6	DXEngineering, Folding Chair with Storage Bag
5	DXEngineering, Folding Chair with Storage Bag
4	\$50 Gift certificate from Unified Microsystems
3	Yamaha CM-500 Headset
2	Vibroplex Iambic Standard Key
1	Grand Prize, sponsored by Yaesu & Gigaparts - Yaesu FTdx1200. Won by Edward Seeliger, Jr KD5M, who upgraded on Sunday to the FTdx3000.

40m, and that being on Sunday night, 20m was quite dead. On a lark I switched to 80m, and found it remarkably devoid of earth-shattering QRN and full of TNQP signals. There was just one problem—my antenna. I added what wire I could find to the sort-of-vertical section of this two-radial inverted-L, and with fully 30 feet above ground at the highest, was able to get the KX3's tuner to eke out a 3.7:1 SWR, causing a further reduction in output power to about 2W. Nonetheless Coffee County QRP was on the air and doled out a few TNQP in-state QSOs. That was my first 80m QRP portable operation, and it was a blast. But I really need to work on that antenna!